

SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 2, 2004

TAX CHECK-OFF PROVIDES FUNDS FOR POLICE CHAPLAINCY AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Robert M. Stewart, Chief of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, today announced a new opportunity for South Carolinians to support law enforcement officers in all 46 counties of the Palmetto State. For the first time, the 2003 state tax check-off entitled "Police Chaplain's Fund" will enable SC citizens to set aside a portion of their refund for the sake of police officers.

100% of the monies contributed will go to fund the South Carolina Law Enforcement Assistance Program (SCLEAP). The Program was founded in April 2000 by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, the South Carolina Department of Public Safety and the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services. Based in SLED's Community Relations Unit, SCLEAP provides direct services to officers and their family members during times of crisis and tragedy. The scope of services of SCLEAP includes:

- *Traditional Chaplaincy Services
- * Pastoral Crisis Intervention
- * Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)
- * Peer Support Programs
- * Training in CISM, Peer Support and Pastoral Crisis Intervention
- * Alcohol Abuse Intervention, Referral and Assistance

- * Statewide support to 250+ local agencies in times of tragedy
- * Marriage and Family Counsel and Referral
- * Victim Assistance and Community Relations

“The Police Chaplaincy (SCLEAP) was there when we needed them following the tragic deaths of two of our deputies. Their peer support systems provide professional debriefing services anytime they are called upon. They are always willing and able to provide invaluable assistance.”

Sheriff Steve Loftis, Greenville County Sheriff’s Department

“This program is right on target. At last South Carolina has a centralized, coordinated and confidential method of supporting state and local officers who have experienced severe critical incident trauma.”

Chief Gene Sealy, Forest Acres Police Department

“Several years ago we had an officer involved shooting. Members of the Peer Support Team and Chaplains came and walked with us through that tough time. It helped us. “

Sheriff Ben Riley, Jasper County Sheriff’s Department

“I support this program without reservation. It provides support for South Carolina police officers, staff and family members in matters which are work related and matters of a personal nature. As I prepared my own taxes, my wife and I made the decision to support SCLEAP through the tax check-off.”

Colonel Russell F. Roark, Commander South Carolina Highway Patrol

State taxpayers with questions or comments about SCLEAP may contact the staff directly by calling 803-783-3024. Website: www.scleap.org